



County of Los Angeles **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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April 14, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
From: 
David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

MOTION TO SUPPORT SENATE BILL (SB) 1576 (MURRAY) – LEGISLATION TO FULLY FUND THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM FOR EMANCIPATED FOSTER YOUTH (ITEM NO. 11, AGENDA OF APRIL 18, 2006)

Item No. 11 on the April 18, 2006 Agenda is a motion by Mayor Antonovich recommending that the Board of Supervisors support SB 1576 and send a five-signature Board letter to Senator Murray with copies to the Governor and the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation.

As introduced on February 23, 2006, SB 1576 cites legislative intent to enact legislation to address the transitional housing program for foster youth. In 2001, California established the Transitional Housing Placement Plus Program (THP-Plus) to provide housing and supportive services to emancipated foster youth age 18-21. THP-Plus provides a wide range of supportive services including affordable housing, employment training, educational counseling, mental health services, and life skills training for up to two years. These supportive services are designed to help former foster youth become independent and avoid homelessness, incarceration and reliance on public assistance.

Because Federal Title IV-E funding is not available for youths over 18 years of age, funding for THP-Plus is shared by the State and counties at the rate of 40 percent State/60 percent County. This high match requirement deters counties from providing THP-Plus services. Senator Murray intends to amend SB 1576 to reduce the 60 percent County match requirement for THP-Plus, although the amount of the reduction is

unknown. This change will allow counties to provide housing and supportive services for more emancipated foster youth at a lower net County cost.

Support for SB 1576 with the proposed amendment described above is consistent with current Board policy to support legislation and funding to facilitate successful emancipation, promote self-sufficiency and improve opportunities for youth aging out of foster care. The Department of Children and Family Services recommends support for SB 1576 if amended to reduce the county match requirement for THP-Plus, and we concur.

SB 1576 is sponsored by the John Burton Foundation for Children without Homes, the Alameda County Foster Youth Alliance and Honoring Emancipated Youth, and is supported by the County Welfare Directors Association. At this time, there is no registered opposition to the bill. SB 1576 is in the Senate Rules Committee. Upon receipt of the proposed amendments, the bill will be scheduled for hearing in the Senate Human Services Committee. The first day the bill can be heard is May 9, 2006.

DEJ:GK
MAL:JF:VE:cc

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Department of Children and Family Services